



Montana Department of Transportation  
PO Box 201001  
Helena, MT 59620-1001

**Memorandum**

To: Distribution

From: Mark Wissinger, PE  
Construction Engineer

Date: October 12, 2005

Subject: "Buy America" and Inspection Requirements clarification

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, I issued a memo that in part reads the following:

"On all projects that have not had a Final Inspection, please verify that all sections of steel W-beam and box beam guardrail installed or to be installed are properly marked. Reject all steel W-beam and box beam guardrail not clearly marked as required by AASHTO M 180 (including a legible heat number)."

The reference to box beam guardrail needing to meet the die imprinting requirement of AASHTO M 180 is incorrect. Die imprinting is not currently a contract requirement for box beam guardrail.

The question was raised about nested guardrail sections, and if the imprinted information must be visible after the installation is complete. While it is preferable that the imprinted information be visible after installation (As an example, the date of fabrication information would be useful in making future project development decisions.), it is not a contract requirement that it be visible after installation. Insuring that the rail meets AASHTO M 180 requirements at the time of installation is sufficient in this particular instance.

W-beam rail that constitutes an element of a terminal section is subject to the die imprinting requirements of AASHTO M 180. Reject the entire terminal section if the W-beam element does not meet the requirements of AASHTO M 180.

If you have any questions please contact this office or the Construction Reviewer for your area.

copies: Loran Frazier, PE, Chief Engineer, Engineering Division  
Matt Strizich, PE, Materials Engineer  
Paul Jagoda, PE, Construction Engineering Services Engineer  
Lisa Durbin, PE, Construction Administration Services Engineer  
District Construction Engineers  
District Operations Engineers  
Engineering Project Managers  
District Engineering Officers  
MDT Legal  
FHWA, Montana Division  
U.S Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General  
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